



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California*

*McGregor W. Scott  
United States Attorney*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700  
Fax 916/554-2900*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 27, 2005

*Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706  
Available at: [www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home)*

**ANOTHER DEFENDANT IN IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME SENTENCED**

SACRAMENTO - - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JOLENE COLIPAPA, 36, was sentenced today for her role in an identity theft scheme operating in Sacramento County of over 2 years (2002 through 2004). COLIPAPA, who had suffered a prior conviction for possession of counterfeit checks, was on probation when she participated in the identity theft scheme. Today, COLIPAPA received an 18-month jail sentence for her participation in the felony bank fraud scheme. On February 23, 2005, STEVEN ROSS FORD, 36, received a 30-month sentence of imprisonment. FORD similarly was on probation for an identity theft offense when he participated in the identity theft scheme. On April 20, 2005, KATRINA MARIE LUCIUS, 26, of Folsom, California, received an 8-month sentence of incarceration, also for her participation in the bank fraud scheme. The three participants in the criminal bank fraud and identity theft scheme were sentenced by United States District Judge William B. Shubb.

This case was investigated by the Folsom Police Department, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office, the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, the indictment charges that during the period of July of 2002 through November of 2004, defendants FORD and COLIPAPA wrongfully obtained bank account information, credit cards, credit card convenience checks, and credit card statements, all of which were taken from the mail. As part of the scheme, FORD and COLIPAPA provided co-defendant LUCIUS with some of these stolen bank account and credit card convenience checks, which LUCIUS used to make fraudulent purchases at various Sacramento area merchants. The charges against the defendants involved a sophisticated operation, including use of computers and specialized computer software to create counterfeit checks. The defendants engaged in multiple counts of bank fraud, credit card fraud, and possession of stolen mail. The defendants' sentences were enhanced because the offenses of conviction involved more than 50 victims and over \$30,000 of loss.

"The crime of identity theft causes great hardship to the victims whose identity is stolen. The sentences handed down against this ring of offenders demonstrate that federal and local authorities will not treat these crimes lightly," said United States Attorney McGregor Scott.

Each defendant has been ordered to pay restitution and each defendant will be on supervised release for 3 years following release from federal custody.

###